

BEING LESS CRITICAL OF THE PRESIDENT

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, sometimes I think Democrats are a little too critical of President Bush. Now, it is true that he took a huge surplus and turned it into the largest fiscal deficit in American history; that is true. It is true that he promised Americans that he would protect seniors, and the next day gave Americans the largest Medicare premium increase, essentially a tax increase, in American history, of 17 percent. It is true that he has the largest loss of jobs, over 2.5 million jobs, since Herbert Hoover.

But now some Democrats have even criticized the President for refusing to take his physical and thereby squandering \$1 million of flight training when he served in the National Guard. I think we need to put that in context. If he continued to fly, he may have crashed the plane.

We need to be a little less critical of this President.

EXPRESSING ALARM ABOUT AMERICA'S SHRINKING FLEET

(Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with grave concerns about our country's security. A report from the American Shipbuilding Association, the ASA, was recently released that gives alarming figures about our Navy's shrinking fleet and our vulnerability to China.

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The report shows that by 2010, China will have twice as many submarines as the United States. And that is not all. Assuming that we build six ships a year, the Chinese fleet will surpass the size of the U.S. fleet by 2015.

Further, a Chinese general was quoted as saying the Chinese Navy is being designed with the direct objective of being able to "neutralize" a U.S. aircraft carrier.

China's threat is real. And yet, just last month, the Navy submitted a proposal to the Secretary of Defense that dramatically reduces our shipbuilding program.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable. Further cuts will not only be devastating to our shipbuilding industry, they will make us vulnerable to threats like China.

ASA's report says it best: "Ignoring the Navy's requirement will serve as the precursor to the end of America's reign as a sovereign superpower."

DEMANDING THE TRUTH

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, The New York Times today says: "U.S. Conceding Rebels Control of Regions of Iraq. Pentagon is not certain when central areas can be secured."

Iraq has come to that. From the day the President launched his crusade, we feared that casualties would mount, and they have. One thousand brave Americans have died.

The marker somehow brings it more in focus for the American people. As if 999 would not, or if even one death in this war is not tragic enough.

One thousand soldiers killed in Iraq, over 6,000 wounded and maimed, tens of thousands of Iraqis killed and injured; and the American people still do not know why.

The President has changed his reasons for going to war so often that we have lost sight of another casualty. The truth has fallen alongside of those brave U.S. soldiers.

We cannot bring them back, but we can honor them by demanding the truth on the 2nd of November. It is coming, Mr. President.

2005 REPUBLICAN FREEDOM CALENDAR CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF REPUBLICAN PARTY

(Mr. COX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, what we are fighting for in Iraq is what we have always fought for here in America. We are fighting for freedom.

This year is the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Republican Party. Over a century and a half, from the abolition of slavery to the establishment of women's suffrage, to the freeing of millions of people from slavery and the Soviet Empire, Afghanistan, and in Iraq, the Republican Party has been the most effective political organization in the history of the world in advancing the cause of freedom.

So that all of us can learn more about the civil rights achievements of this distinguished American institution in its 150th anniversary year, the House Republican Policy Committee has produced this 2005 Republican Freedom Calendar. Each day of the year the calendar lists an important milestone in the Republican Party's history of advancing freedom.

Thirty-five years ago yesterday, America mourned the death of one of the world's greatest civil rights champions, Senate Republican Leader Everett Dirksen. It was he who authored the 1960 Civil Rights Act, and it was he more than any other person who was responsible for passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, including defeating a 14-hour Democrat filibuster in the Senate.

The 2005 Freedom Calendar is available both in published and electronic form on the Internet at policy.house.gov.

BUSH ECONOMIC POLICIES NOT WORKING

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, \$422 billion: a new record deficit for the United States of America, yet another record for the Bush administration, eclipsing last year's record of \$375 billion. But only inside the Washington Beltway or inside the Bush White House is this considered proof positive that his economic policies are working.

Working how? We are going to spend every penny of the Social Security surplus and replace it with IOUs. We are going to finance the entire Government of the United States outside the Department of Defense with borrowed money. We are going to add 10 percent to the national debt in one year, indebting another generation and a generation after that to work to pay off this profligate spending.

They say their policies are working. Working how? For whom? The very few wealthy people who have reaped the benefit of the huge tax cuts, while the rest of America is being given the tab.

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the House Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution, (H. Res. 756) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 756

Resolved, That the following named Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES: Mr. Stenholm.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST ANDRE WARD

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a deep sense of pride to honor the outstanding achievements of Olympic boxer Andre Ward of Oakland, California. Andre won the gold medal in the light heavyweight boxing final in the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens, Greece, making him Oakland's first Olympic gold medalist since 1968.

Andre began boxing at the age of 9. After learning the basics of boxing from his father, Andre began training with his godfather and current coach, Virgil Hunter. Within one year, Andre won his first tournament, and at age 14 began a winning streak that spanned 6 years and roughly 90 fights. During